

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 04651 201315Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8637

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 4651

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, GH

SUBJECT EDITORIAL CAUTIONS AGAINST OVERTHROWING GOVT

LONDON FOR SEITZ

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. GOG-OWNED DAILY GRAPHIC JUNE 20 PLEADS EDITORIALY THAT NO GHANAIAI GOVT CAN SURVIVE AT PRESENT WITHOUT ARMY AND POLICE SUPPORT, HENCE "DISCRETION IS BETTER PART OF VALOR."

2. ARGUING THAT CURRENT MILITARY REGIME HAS SHOWN "MAGNANIMITY" BY REPRIEVING ALL WHO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO OVERTHROW IT (ADDING "AND THIS HAS HAPPENED FIVE TIMES") GRAPHIC EDITORIAL ADDRESSES "THE REAL CONSCIENCE AND INDEED THE THINKING POWER OF ALL THOSE WHO SEEK THE RESIGNATION, BE IT PEACEFUL OR OTHERWISE, OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL."

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PAGE 02 ACCRA 04651 201315Z

3. EDITORIAL CLAIMS THAT IF A COUP WERE TO OUST POLICE AND MILITARY ALTOGETHER THEY IN TURN WOULD "CONTEMPLATE EMBARKING OF A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE REGIME WHICH WOULD SUCEED THE SMC" (TRANSLATION: THEY WOULD PROBABLY PLAN A COUNTER COUP). MOREOVER, EDITORIAL STATES, ARMED FORCES CONTAINS SOME YOUNG RADICALS

WHO MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF COUP SITUATION TO
"WREAK VENGEANCE ON DEFENSELESS GHANAIS" IN WHICH
CASE "WE WILL ALL FIND OURSELVES IN A SUNK BOAT."

4. MORAL OF ALL THIS, SAYS GRAPHIC, IS THAT "WHAT
WE NEED IN THIS COUNTRY IS A UNION OF ALL GHANAIS."
IN ADDITION "WE MUST THINK ABOUT ACCENTUATING THE
POSITIVE INSTEAD OF WASHING OUR DIRTY LINEN IN THE
PUBLIC FOR ALL TO JEER AT US." END UNCLASSIFIED

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5. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST PUBLIC REFERENCE TO CURRENT
EFFORTS TO REMOVE SMC. IT NOT ONLY PUBLICALLY ACKNOWLEDGES
THESE EFFORTS BUT REMINDS READERS THAT FIVE PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS
HAVE BEEN MADE. MOREOVER, OUTSIDE OF "MAGNANIMITY" IT OFFERS
NO DEFENSE OF PRESENT REGIME AGAINST THESE EFFORTS EXCEPT THE
PROSPECT OF EVEN WORSE TREATMENT BY OTHER MILITARY
ELEMENTS IF PRESENT GROUP IS REMOVED. THIS PUBLIC
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ACTIVE DISSATISFACTION WITH PRESENT
REGIME PRESENTED IN ALMOST TOTALLY NEGATIVE TERMS IS
STRIKINGLY OUT OF CHARACTER WITH REGIME'S NORMAL PUBLIC
STANCE AND SUGGESTS A DEGREE OF DESPERATION IN FACE OF
OPPOSITION.

6. THE CIRCUMLOCUTION OF "A UNION OF ALL GHANAIS"
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PAGE 03 ACCRA 04651 201315Z

ALSO SUGGESTS AN ELABORATE AVOIDANCE OF THE PHRASE
"UNION GOVERNMENT" WHICH UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY WOULD HAVE
BEEN EXPECTED TO APPEAR THROUGHOUT AN EDITORIAL OF THIS
SORT. IT APPEARS TO BE FURTHER EVIDENCE OF BACKING AWAY
FROM THIS UNSUCCESSFUL AND UNPOPULAR FORMULATION. END
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SMITH

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